

I made in our 2020 report. These are authentic bank records. They aren't Russian disinformation.

President Biden still owes the American people answers about his connections to Hunter and James Biden's business deals and arrangements. He owes the American people an explanation as to how much he knew about their businesses and personal relationships with communist China.

On October 13 of this year, I wrote to the FBI telling them that I know it possesses documents that indicate Joe Biden was aware of Hunter Biden's business arrangements and may have been involved in some.

In conclusion, since Senator JOHNSON and I began our Biden investigation August 2019—now, remember, 14 months before the 2020 election—now, after all that, our work has been substantiated. Big Tech censorship may have succeeded in the short term; however, the truth eventually sees the light of day. And I thank the new Twitter owner for his transparency. Accountability should follow.

#### NOMINATION OF ROBERT P. STORCH

Mr. President, on another short point I want to make, I want to congratulate our Senate colleagues on confirming Rob Storch to be the new Department of Defense inspector general. This happened last week. The DOD Office of Inspector General has been without a Senate-confirmed IG for almost 7 years, and we all know that is far too long.

Inspectors general play a key role in watchdogging the executive branch. They act as force multipliers for Congress through our constitutional responsibility of congressional oversight.

Inspectors general must hold government bureaucrats accountable with hard-hitting findings and recommendations. They must remain on the attack to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. The Department of Defense has an annual budget of over \$700 billion. It is high time that we have an IG confirmed that is accountable to Congress to watchdog this money.

The Department of Defense inspector general must now hit the ground running in conducting effective and efficient oversight over the waste, fraud, and abuse that happens at the Department of Defense.

I, along with my colleagues, expect the Department of Defense inspector general to be an inspector general who has teeth, unafraid to identify wrongdoing. And we will expect him to call out those who seek to get rich off the backs of hard-working American taxpayers as well as those who put our Nation at risk.

I expect Mr. Storch to be that watchdog. I also expect him to work with Congress to conduct oversight in areas of congressional interest and be responsive to requests for information that any Member of Congress seeks.

Transparency is key, and being responsive and accountable to Congress will be crucial to his success. I look

forward to working with Mr. Storch in his new role as Department of Defense IG.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks—I think they will be concluded by 11:30—but that I be allowed to go a minute or two over before the rollcall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING O'DELL OWENS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. O'Dell Owens, a champion of public health and public education in Cincinnati whom we lost last month. He was a longtime friend, longtime activist, longtime Ohioan, a public servant, and a trailblazer.

Dr. Owens' story and his unwavering dedication to the public good serves as an example for all us in Southwest Ohio, throughout Ohio, throughout the Midwest, and throughout the country. So much of his work was aimed at empowering young people of color and encouraging them to recognize their potential by staying in school and attending college.

He often shared a memory from his year as a ninth grader. A college counselor said he was "too poor and too dumb to go to college." Imagine a counselor saying that. Dr. Owens proved that counselor and everyone who didn't believe in him—he proved them wrong. He graduated from college; he got a masters and a medical degree from Yale University. He completed his fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

After gathering degrees and credentials that provided him with opportunities anywhere in the world, Dr. Owens returned to his home in Cincinnati where he spent his career serving his community. He was a pioneering fertility specialist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He became the first African American to hold office in Hamilton County when he was elected the county coroner.

He served as president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. That is where I worked with him the most closely. He served as the Hamilton County interim health commissioner and as president of the non-profit Interact for Health.

His work always came back to his community and extended far outside of medicine. He sat on the boards of various organizations and foundations, including the University of Cincinnati, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—the only one of its kind in America. It is an extraordinary place. Anyone anywhere in the vicinity of my part of the Midwest should visit it—and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Cincinnati Business Advisory Council.

He was chairman of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise. He volunteered as chair of the annual children's Cin-

cinnati Educational Television Action Auction in support of Cincinnati's public television programming.

Dr. Owens empowered each of us to make the world a better place, and he so succeeded. He reached out to me and my office to make sure we were paying close attention to issues impacting people in Cincinnati.

He was a very talented speaker known for his passionate delivery—always, always standing up for what he believed in. He was well-respected. He was dearly loved throughout our State for his courage and—what I would like most to think about—his moral clarity.

He took care of Cincinnati. I join our entire community in expressing gratitude for his lifetime of service. Today we recommit to his example.

Our thoughts are with the Owens family and with all those who knew and loved him.

#### REMEMBERING JULIA REICHERT

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Julia Reichert, an award-winning filmmaker, activist, and Ohioan whom we lost last week.

Julia was born in New Jersey, but she moved to Yellow Springs, OH, in Greene County to attend Antioch College where her interests in activism and storytelling emerged—interests that led her to become a strong, well-known voice for working Americans.

During her time at Antioch, she combined her passions by hosting a feminist program on the campus radio station and making "Growing up Female," a groundbreaking feminist documentary that explored the socialization of women. Decades later, it would be added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

After college, Julia made Dayton her home as her work gained national attention. Her documentaries "Union Maids"—M-A-I-D-S—which followed women active in the Chicago labor movement, and "Seeing Red" were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her 2010 film "The Last Truck" followed the workers at a GM plant in Moraine, OH, as they built their final truck and the plant closed down. The film became the prologue for her Academy Award-winning documentary "American Factory," which focused on the next chapter of that GM plant after a Chinese company bought it.

In "American Factory," Julia took a global story; she made it local; she made it understandable; and she made it very popular. She gave a voice to the workers and the communities overlooked by the headlines, which happens all too often with a plant closing.

In her films and documentaries, as she explored feminism and family, labor and politics, globalism and the economy, she took these big ideas and showed what they meant on a human level. Julia had a unique ability—an extraordinary ability—to connect with all kinds of people and tell their stories in respectful, empathetic, and understandable ways.

She highlighted issues that were often overlooked. Her work sparked important conversations. People who watched these films had really no idea what it was like to be these workers until they understood so much more when they came to the theater and watched these.

Julia also taught at Wright State University in Dayton, serving as a mentor to the next generation of filmmakers. She instilled in her students that no matter where they came from or who they were, they have a voice and a story to tell—no matter who they were or where they came from, how little wealth their family might have had, they have a voice and a story to tell. And it is up to us to listen to those stories. They remember her genuine interest in their lives outside of the classroom. She cared about them. That is who Julia was.

She was a champion of the labor movement, the feminist movement, and an extraordinarily talented storyteller. She was a friend, a mother, and a mentor. Our world is a better place, not just Southwest Ohio from whence she came, but our State, our whole country is a better place because of Julia and her work.

Julia's husband and fellow filmmaker Steven, whom I know, and her daughter Lela, whom I have met and is an activist just like her mother, they will together uphold—as I will try to do—uphold Julia's legacy and will continue her work.

Today our thoughts are with Steven and Lela, Julia's friends and family, and all those who knew her and loved her and so appreciated her and had the privilege of working alongside her.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF MIA ROBERTS PEREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Mia Perez to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Perez is an accomplished State court judge with an impressive record as a litigator. And with her confirmation, this Senate will take another important step forward in building a Federal judiciary that reflects the diversity of America.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Judge Perez received her B.A. from Tufts University before returning to Philadelphia to earn her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law. She practiced as a criminal defense lawyer for a decade, serving for 4 years as a State public defender and another 6 years in private practice. In that time, she tried approximately 1,000 cases to judgment, during which she largely representing indigent defendants. For the past 6 years, Judge Perez has served as a judge in the criminal trial division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She has presided over approximately 400 trials, including 52 jury trials. Judge Perez has also taught trial advocacy at her alma mater, Temple University

Beasley School of Law, for more than a decade.

In recognition of her extensive trial experience on and off the bench, Judge Perez enjoys the strong bipartisan support of Senators Casey and Toomey. The American Bar Association has also unanimously rated Judge Perez as “well qualified” to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. And if confirmed, Judge Perez would make history as the second Latina judge—and the first AAPI judge—to serve in this role.

I support this outstanding nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Perez nomination, which the clerk will read.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### VOTE ON PEREZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Perez nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 378 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

|              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Hassan    | Reed       |
| Bennet       | Heinrich  | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Hirono    | Sanders    |
| Blunt        | Kelly     | Schatz     |
| Booker       | King      | Schumer    |
| Brown        | Klobuchar | Shaheen    |
| Cantwell     | Leahy     | Sinema     |
| Cardin       | Lujan     | Smith      |
| Carper       | Manchin   | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Markey    | Tester     |
| Collins      | Menendez  | Tillis     |
| Coons        | Merkley   | Toomey     |
| Cortez Masto | Murkowski | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth    | Murphy    | Warren     |
| Durbin       | Murray    | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein    | Ossoff    | Wyden      |
| Gillibrand   | Padilla   |            |
| Graham       | Peters    |            |

#### NAYS—43

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Hagerty    | Risch      |
| Blackburn | Hawley     | Romney     |
| Boozman   | Hoeven     | Rounds     |
| Braun     | Hyde-Smith | Rubio      |
| Burr      | Inhofe     | Sasse      |
| Capito    | Johnson    | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Shelby     |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Sullivan   |
| Cramer    | Lummis     | Thune      |
| Crapo     | Marshall   | Tuberville |
| Daines    | McConnell  | Wicker     |
| Ernst     | Moran      | Young      |
| Fischer   | Paul       |            |
| Grassley  | Portman    |            |

#### NOT VOTING—5

|              |        |         |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Cruz         | Kaine  | Warnock |
| Hickenlooper | Warner |         |

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1187, Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “nay.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows: